

WASHINGTON POST
12 March 1987

A 30

Israel Given 'Strong Message' on Pollard Spy Case

Shultz Stresses Need for Further Investigation by Jerusalem Government

By Joanne Oren
Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State George P. Shultz said yesterday he was "deeply distressed" by Israeli espionage in the United States and had delivered "a strong message" to the Israeli government on the need for further investigation of the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy case.

In his first public remarks on the issue since Pollard, a U.S. citizen, was sentenced last week to life imprisonment for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel, Shultz signaled continuing Reagan administration dissatisfaction with Israel's response to the matter.

"We have certainly conveyed that message" that a probe is needed, "but I don't know the degree to which that may have been received," Shultz said. Earlier, he said the United States had urged Israel to cooperate fully with the U.S. investigation, "and that took place, to a degree."

Shultz said he was "deeply distressed about spying on the United States by any country, and perhaps especially when it's Israel." A full investigation, he said, "has a cleansing effect" and would "help all of us who are deep friends of Israel to handle this situation."

State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said Shultz testified before learning that Israel's so-called inner cabinet had named a two-member commission to "report to the government" on the Pollard affair. A senior State Department official said, however, that Shultz had not reacted to the news with any indication of satisfaction, and noted that the commission was already under attack in Israel for lacking subpoena powers.

Several members of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, which has jurisdiction over the United States' \$3 billion program of aid to Israel, told Shultz they were

concerned about Israel's decision to promote two officials linked to Pollard.

Chairman David R. Obey (D-Wis.) said he had been "more than a little steamed" to read that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had opposed a full-scale probe.

"This is not just another flap," Obey said. He said Tuesday he had summoned Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Israel, to his office to tell him that "droves of members of Congress have expressed their anger" over the situation.

Rep. Robert J. Mrazek (D-N.Y.) said he was concerned that the issue "might become one that festers" and that "a strong message" should be delivered.

Shultz said the two Israeli officials linked to Pollard "had been treated in a way that was not warranted." Col. Aviem Sella, the Air Force officer who recruited Pollard, was made commander of Tel Nof, Israel's second largest air base, just before he was indicted in the United States. Rafael Eitan, the head of the intelligence unit that oversaw Pollard's work, was given the post of chairman of the government-owned Israeli Chemicals Corp. Eitan was named here as an unindicted coconspirator.

"We have instructed our people not to have anything to do with Col. Sella nor the air base," Shultz said. He said he had "made clear our distress" and that Shamir had told him he was "very ashamed" of the promotion.

Shultz stressed that the U.S.-Israeli relationship remained strong, and that the issue should be "managed so that it doesn't wind up with us shooting ourselves in the foot." At the same time, he added, "there is no way to hide the distress we feel."

Shultz's strong expression of concern contrasts with State Department efforts last year to play down the Pollard affair, a position that angered Justice Department officials investigating the spy case.